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Hopkinsville Kentuckian.

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HOPKINSVILLE, KENTUCKY, TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 1890.

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**GRAND
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EIGHTY YEARS AGO.

The Social Position of the Old-Time New England Mill Girl.

When, at the beginning of the century, the cotton business arose, it afforded the girls of New England the first opportunity to find occupation outside their homes sufficiently important to affect the destiny of any large number of them. They rushed into the new opening, not dreaming that they were precipitating their sex into the maelstrom of modern industry, or that they were merely the advance guard of a great army of female workers, whose disadvantageous attitude towards economic forces is one of the most fruitful sources of suffering in our social body. It was not the stupid girls who, in that early day, broke away from the monotony of farm life, or the still worse helplessness of existence with parents too poor to be farmers. It was the bright, eager young women, who went to the mills to earn money, and from themselves by the semi-servitude engendered by dependence on relatives. The story has often been told of the Lowell factory girls who published a paper, and in time settled to no meaner avocation than that of author or social reformer. There are legends also of a generation of Yankee mill girls who sent to Preston S. Brooks the suggestive tribute of thirty pieces of silver, after his assault upon Charles Sumner. But the careers concerning which these stories are related belong to a late period in the history of the American connection with the manual part of cotton manufacture, and some of them were exceptionally striking. Still, such incidents indicate something which is important to understand, and that is that the blue girls of New England for many years became mill operatives. Of course I do not mean that such labor was ever aristocratic, but that it possessed a certain social sanction which it does not now command. A consideration of the average fortunes of the native help leads to the same conclusion. The mill girl had worldly superiors than as the dressmaker, the typewriter, the telegraph operator, the common school teacher, has now, but she was from exactly the same stock, and was herself just the same sort of girl, as are the ones who now follow these different vocations. She maintained her dignity while in the mill, and if she left it before she grew old it was because she wanted to leave it—usually because some man wisely wanted to marry her. Her marriage was generally sensible, and sometimes brilliant. In studying the traditions of the whole period, one finds occasional hints of that romance which attaches to all history, as amid the homely details one catches now and then a glimpse of ideal beauty, and comes upon the trace of some girl whose loveliness attracted a fate quite different from that of her village comrades. It is happily due to the purity of New England ethics that this fate is more often found to be joyful than sad. I suppose it would be impossible to obtain statistics which would tell us much either of the life of the Americans who were operatives, or of the after life of their descendants. But every person who has been long familiar with the native residents in the older manufacturing towns is necessarily acquainted with many family histories, which reveal the essential features of that former time, when factories were small, and owners and workers were often not only neighbors, but friends. They were all subjected to the ancient New England village tradition of substantial equality. They were of one blood, they held to one religion, and called each other very generally by their Christian names. "Of that early time," writes a lady now more than eighty years old, "I have many recollections, when the wife of Mr. S—met the wives of overcares not only in her church work or at prayer meetings, but in social equality."—LILLIAN D. CHASE WYMAN, in Atlantic.

THE VALUE OF MINUTES.

Different Views Regarding the Interesting Question of Wasted Time.

There are many different and more or less conflicting views as to what constitutes a waste of time. Severe people consider every moment wasted that is not devoted to productive work or necessary sleep or rest. They would make of man a mere machine, to be fed to maintain his energies, to be allowed to sleep a limited number of hours to prevent wearing out, but would have him devote all his other hours to work of some kind. Other people, a little broader in their views, recognize the need of intellectual culture and would permit a certain amount of time to be given to reading and study without counting it a waste. The liberals recognize all other kinds of human activity, and allow some hours for recreation and amusement. But there may be waste of time under any of these limitations, and they may be to some extent violated without waste. Time is wasted that does not produce benefit of some kind to the individual, but the kinds of benefit to which he is susceptible are so many and the needs of different men so various that there is an almost infinite variety of ways in which time may be usefully employed. The test as to whether time is being wasted must, therefore, be applied in individual cases, and the only question is whether it is being beneficially employed. That time devoted to recreation or amusement is not wasted is expressed in the old proverb: "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy." A cheerful disposition is such an important factor in energetic work that to deprive a man of the enjoyments of life is to curtail his working power. If, however, a due proportion is not maintained between work and play there is a waste of time in the opposite direction. Too much amusement produces a distaste for work. The hours devoted to reading and study are beneficially employed, not wasted, when the line of study is such as to promote the welfare of the individual, but time may be wasted in reading that which is of no benefit or that which distracts one's thoughts from necessary occupations. Time may even be wasted in productive work, if it should be of the kind that degrades or that is less beneficial than other available kinds of work. But by far the greatest waste of time comes from want of method. It is constant hour by hour, and like the constant dropping of water on a stone, produces an effect apparently out of all proportion to the cause. Every one has noticed that in a well ordered household or shop every foot of time is its place and work proceeds systematically. One thing is no sooner done than another is ready at hand, and the tools are always in order and ready to be taken up. On the other hand, in a disorderly household or shop, working without method, there are frequent interruptions or delays while the question is being considered what to do next, or while search is being made for tools that when found have to be put in order before the main work can be begun. A few minutes out of an hour may be wasted in such delays, but in the aggregate they amount to a total that shows this to be one of the most common and almost unnoted sources of the waste of time. In large establishments employing hundreds of men the employer has to look after the possible waste of time by as many individuals as employees, and his prosperity or failure may turn upon this single question of a waste of time. In such a case the loss by the individual is so greatly multiplied that in a single day it may amount to enough to offset the profits of a close business. This is the reason for the attention given in manufacturing establishments to methods of doing work and for the strict rules governing the admission and departure of workmen. To the individual it sometimes seems unnecessary to close the doors at 7 o'clock and compel a man who is one minute late to lose a quarter of a day, but a little calculation shows the loss the individual who would lose time if such rules did not exist. The whole establishment would be demoralized if they were not established and enforced, thousands of dollars' worth of machinery would be idle, along with the workmen, and it would be impossible to keep the work moving from day

PARING PARAGRAPHS.

—Jarvis—"How true the proverb is that a man is what his wife makes him." Jarvis—"And how true it is, too, that a man does what his wife makes him."—Terra Haute Express.

—Husband (severely)—"What! more money? Suppose I was dead—you would have to beg for your cash." Wife (calmly)—"It wouldn't be as though I had never had any practice, sir."—Chicago Globe.

ETIQUETTE AT VASSAR.

A Glimpse at the College Life of Bright American Girls.

Vassar is a college in all that the name implies; and a thorough education is given in all academic branches; and it has its rules of social etiquette just as rigidly adhered to as in Yale or Harvard. Every girl in the college salutes forth during the early days of the term, card in hand, to call on the freshmen in her corridor. If the freshmen be out, a card is left; if in, the acquaintance is formed. But in either case the call must be returned within a week. After this calls and visits are more informal, and parties given. Each girl is expected to give a party in her room once in the year. These are invariably held after ten o'clock, at which hour lights should be put out; but with closed doors, carefully shrouded in shawls and waterproof cloaks, the night watchman gets no hint of the dissipation being indulged in within. When three girls share a sitting-room, with a bed-room apiece opening out of it (for most of the rooms are in groups of this kind), they combine in the giving of their entertainments, thus saving a small amount of trouble and expense. Besides the individual parties or "spreads," there are the legitimate class parties. The seniors invite the juniors, the juniors the sophomores, the sophomores give the freshmen a party early in the year, and later on invite them to the "trig" ceremonies, an eccentric performance to signalize their joy at having finished their course in trigonometry, to which the freshmen are still looking forward. The character of the entertainment is burlesque. Mathematical signs and terms are personified, and good natured ridicule showered on "classmates," objectionable college institutions, and even the "faculty" itself. There are occasional minstrel performances, with peanuts, apples, maple sugar and lemonade for refreshments; also dancing in the college parlors, and sometimes "powder" and costume balls—of course confined to inmates of the house.—Golden Days.

THE ARIZONA KICKER.

Pleasant Information From the Glorious and Boundless West.

We extract the following from the last issue of the Arizona Kicker: POOR SHOOTING.—As we were returning to our office from the Widow Smith's the other evening (we have been sparring the widow for several weeks past), and just as we came opposite the old Indian fort, some person whose manners certainly need polishing up, fired four bullets at us from a revolver. The intent, no doubt, was to kill us. It took us about the millioth part of a second to realize this fact, and then we opened out for a run and made good our escape. We don't claim to be great shakes on shooting, but if we can't hit the editor and proprietor of a great and growing weekly at a distance of twenty feet once in four shots, we will leave Arizona. We don't claim to be a Chesterfield, but if our manners permitted us to hide away behind an old wall and begin popping at a gentleman without warning, we'd expect to be mentioned in the same line with a hyena.

TOO MUCH TALK.

—There is altogether too much talk about that mistake of our popular young druggist of the Blue Front which sent Colonel Jim Jackson to his grave. Colonel Jim asked for quinine and got strychnine by mistake, but there are a good many redeeming features. The Colonel was old, lazy, and drunk half the time, and left no one to mourn his loss. The druggist is a young and energetic man, who sold out a coal-yard in Chicago to come here and go into the drug business, and it must be expected that he will make a few mistakes in the go. We call attention to his liberal manner of advertising in the Kicker. He has assured us that such a mistake can not occur again, as he has properly labeled the bottles.

ANOTHER LIE NAILED.—Our esteemed contemporary down the street charges us with bulldozing the business men of this town into advertising with us. We nail the statement as a lie, and every business man will nail it as a lie. Our methods of securing advertising have always been perfectly legitimate. If a man who fled from Ohio to escape State prison for arson opens a grocery here we drop around for a friendly chat with him, and we let him know that we are posted on him. Then we set forth our circulation and influence, give him rates, and if he says he doesn't want to advertise that ends it. While we advise all to advertise, we never bulldoze, as all can testify. If bulldozing would secure advertising the old clap-trap concerns down the street covered with mortgagages would be quite apt to try it.

APOLITICAL.—During our absence last week an item crept into the local columns which has stirred up considerable feeling. It was in relation to the death of Judge Handy, and the writer of it supposing truth was demanded, said, the deceased was an old loafer, bummer, drunkard and dead-beat, and that he was found dead beside a jar of whiskey. The friends of the deceased are justly indignant at this expose, although they do not dispute the charges. We are very sorry that anything of the sort should happen, and are now preparing an article for next week, in which the judge is complimented for his sobriety and love of cold water—praise for his honesty and integrity—complimented for his public charities, and referred to as one of the most upright men west of Chicago. While all know better, and while the whole thing will be a falsehood, we shall be smoothing it over for his friends. Extra copies, done up ready for mailing, only five cents each.—Detroit Free Press.

CAN'T SLEEP NIGHTS.—Is the complaint of thousands suffering from Asthma, Consumption, Coughs, etc. Did you ever try Dr. Ayer's English Remedy? It is the best preparation known for all Lung Troubles. Sold on a positive guarantee at 25c and 50c.

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The Music Department under the directions of Prof. Reichart, offers to the student advantages seldom equaled.

The Art Department is taught by a lady, who has few equals, and scarcely a superior in her line. She has had years of experience and has taught with great success in some of the best schools South.

Indeed, the faculty is complete and can meet all the practical wants of those seeking number one educational advantages.

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